Wetland, Recreation ■
(X,Y) 406895.5694, 62244.75182 ■

Trail Improvement

Existing & Proposed Conditions:

Just west of the baseball fields is a trail that meanders through the trees and is used primarily by children riding bikes while their siblings play baseball.

This trail could be improved for greater use by park visitors by providing a destination and a reason for meandering. The fairly aimless form of the existing trail invites non-use. Trail destinations could include an area along a restored portion of Tibbetts Creek, and a connection to a larger trail system in and around the restored Greenwood property as presented in Project C4. Additional plantings along the trail could increase aesthetics and provide enhanced food and cover opportunities for wildlife.

● Project location

Typical trail section

Existing trail near baseball field

Trail connections over Tibbetts creek

Upland, Wetland ■
(X,Y) 408116.135289, 62802.4635735 ■

Oxbow Field Habitat Enhancement

Existing & Proposed Conditions:

The field northeast of the old oxbow on the north side of Issaquah Creek is approximately 20 acres in size. This area is a combination of wetland and upland features, bordered by wetland to the north and east and by Issaquah Creek to the southwest. An existing trail is located in the southern portion of this field. Much of the area is dominated by a variety of grass species, horsetail, buttercup, and vetch, bordered by blackberry thickets and trees beyond. Patches of soft rush, slough sedge, and reed canarygrass are present in the wetter portions to the east. This area was not specifically delineated in the Wetlands Inventory for the Lake Sammamish State Park Property (The Coot Company, 2005), but was generally described and identified in the discussion of Issaquah Creek Uplands. The report characterizes this area as a "combination of slightly higher ground built up from flood overflow deposition plus the drainage effects from the creek channel 'zone of influence' which has created mostly linear 'islands' of upland ground along both sides of the creek."

This area provides an opportunity to create a variety of upland and wetland plant communities, which could be designed to provide a unique assemblage of food and cover opportunities for wildlife diversity. Forest and shrub patches or islands could be planted in a scattered manner to maximize edges while maintaining the open meadow character of the area. This project could be combined with Project B9, which proposes an interpretive area and trail highlighting the oxbow and associated stream processes.

● Project location

Wetland function	Existing score	Proposed score
Flood/Storm Water Control	7	9
Base Flow/Ground Water Support	7	7
Erosion/Shoreline Protection	NA	NA
Water Quality Improvement	12	12
Natural Biological Support	20	27
Overall Habitat Functions	5	7
Specific Habitat Functions	7	9
Cultural/Socioeconomic	12	13

Wetland and buffer functions can be characterized using the Wetland and Buffer Functions Semi-Quantitative Assessment Methodology (Cooke Scientific Services, 2002). The table above shows scores for each function in the existing condition and predicted improvement based on proposed habitat enhancements. The worksheet for this assessment is included in Appendix B.

Existing open field lacks habitat values

Wetland, Lakeshore ■
(X,Y) 407005.759376, 62704.8449689 ■

Lakeshore Wetland Enhancement

Existing & Proposed Conditions:

The lakeshore wetland between New Beach and Sunset Beach is a fairly diverse community of aquatic, emergent, scrub-shrub, and forested wetland features. However, there are portions that have become dominated by reed canarygrass and blackberries, both in the interior of the wetland and along the edges. This wetland was identified as Wetland 5A in Wetlands Inventory for the Lake Sammamish State Park Property (The Coot Company, 2005).

The lakeshore vegetation fringe could be expanded into reed canarygrass areas by mowing and installing willow stakes in clusters. Western red cedar and Sitka spruce trees could be inplanted among the existing trees and shrubs to add a coniferous component to this habitat. Additional shrub plantings such as gooseberry, twinberry, salmonberry, and rose could be planted in clusters to increase edge habitat and wildlife food and cover values. Logs and woody debris could be installed to increase the structural diversity of the habitat. Native emergents such as hardstem bulrush could be installed along the lakeshore. Wetland buffer vegetation should be planted where possible, as described in Project A7. This project could be combined with Projects A3 and A7, which also address features of the lakeshore wetland.

● Project location

Wetland function	Existing score	Proposed score
Flood/Storm Water Control	10	10
Base Flow/Ground Water Support	9	10
Erosion/Shoreline Protection	6	6
Water Quality Improvement	11	11
Natural Biological Support	25	30
Overall Habitat Functions	6	7
Specific Habitat Functions	10	11
Cultural/Socioeconomic	13	14

Wetland and buffer functions can be characterized using the Wetland and Buffer Functions Semi-Quantitative Assessment Methodology (Cooke Scientific Services, 2002). The table above shows scores for each function in the existing condition and predicted improvement based on proposed habitat enhancements. The worksheet for this assessment is included in Appendix B.

Lakeshore between New Beach and Sunset Beach

Wetland ■
(X,Y) 407580.042484, 62707.7020988 ■

Open Field Revegetation

Existing & Proposed Conditions:

This wetland is approximately 5.7 acres in size, located to the southeast of the Sunset Beach parking lot. Bat boxes on poles were installed here as a Boy Scout project several years ago. The wetland is comprised of mostly reed canarygrass with blackberry edges and some patches of soft rush. There are willows and cottonwoods beyond the field margins. Several ditches direct water from and through this area to a ditch paralleling the Sunset Beach parking lot.

The natural habitat values of this wetland could be increased by mowing the reed canarygrass and installing dense patches of native trees and shrubs. Plant species should be chosen for their wildlife food and cover characteristics. It is also recommended that several of the existing bat boxes be moved from the installed poles to adjacent tree trunks to possibly increase their use by bats. Bat slabs could also be installed on some of the trees to investigate their relative use compared to the boxes. These habitat features should be oriented to the south or west to maximize their warmth and potential use by bats. An interpretive sign explaining the habitat structures is a good educational opportunity, especially since this is near a trail and visible from the Sunset Beach parking lot.

● Project location

Wetland function	Existing score	Proposed score
Flood/Storm Water Control	8	10
Base Flow/Ground Water Support	7	7
Erosion/Shoreline Protection	NA	NA
Water Quality Improvement	12	12
Natural Biological Support	19	26
Overall Habitat Functions	5	7
Specific Habitat Functions	7	9
Cultural/Socioeconomic	9	11

Wetland and buffer functions can be characterized using the Wetland and Buffer Functions Semi-Quantitative Assessment Methodology (Cooke Scientific Services, 2002). The table above shows scores for each function in the existing condition and predicted improvement based on proposed habitat enhancements. The worksheet for this assessment is included in Appendix B.

This site has potential for wildlife habitat enhancement

Wetland, Upland ■
(X,Y) 407987.659682, 62210.5614977 ■

Open Field Revegetation

Existing & Proposed Conditions:

The area between the two sets of soccer fields is a combination of wetland and upland features, approximately 23 acres in size. A ditch near the eastern "Costco fields" directs water northward into Issaquah Creek. Much of the area is open grassy field dominated by a variety of grass species, thistle, vetch, and horsetail. Blackberries are dense along the edges of the field with some willow, rose, cottonwood, ash, and hawthorn thickets. This wetland area was delineated and identified as part of Wetlands 6A and 6B in Wetlands Inventory for the Lake Sammamish State Park Property (The Coot Company, 2005). The report also indicates that the ditch near the eastern soccer fields receives significant input from stormwater runoff from the City of Issaquah.

This area could be restored and enhanced with removal of blackberries and revegetation at least on the edges of the existing field. Scattered islands of native trees and shrubs planned to correspond to wetland and upland conditions would provide additional food and cover values for wildlife habitat. As the area is near an existing trail, an interpretive sign could be installed to explain habitat enhancement and the value of additional plant species and structural diversity.

● Project location

Wetland function	Existing score	Proposed score
Flood/Storm Water Control	6	8
Base Flow/Ground Water Support	5	5
Erosion/Shoreline Protection	NA	NA
Water Quality Improvement	12	12
Natural Biological Support	17	23
Overall Habitat Functions	4	6
Specific Habitat Functions	7	8
Cultural/Socioeconomic	10	12

Wetland and buffer functions can be characterized using the Wetland and Buffer Functions Semi-Quantitative Assessment Methodology (Cooke Scientific Services, 2002). The table above shows scores for each function in the existing condition and predicted improvement based on proposed habitat enhancements. The worksheet for this assessment is included in Appendix B.

Himalayan blackberry dominates edge of the wetland

Upland ■
(X,Y) 407111.473182, 62596.274033 ■

Upland Forest Enhancement

Existing & Proposed Conditions:

This mostly upland forest area is approximately 2.8 acres northeast of the New Beach parking lot. The existing plant community is dominated by black cottonwood, red alder, Oregon ash, snowberry, osoberry, red-osier dogwood, and salmonberry. Blackberries, both Himalayan and evergreen, have taken hold with reed canarygrass along the edges of the forest.

The fairly diverse forest community could benefit from removal of invasive plants, particularly blackberry and reed canarygrass. Follow up with additional plantings of shrub species to combat invasive weeds and improve habitat values would improve project success. Plantings could include more of the existing shrub species, additional upland shrub species chosen for their food and cover values, and conifers to increase the habitat diversity of the overall area.

● Project location

Edge of the upland forest

Wetland ■
(X,Y) 407205.758468, 62139.1332504 ■

Wetland Enhancement

Existing & Proposed Conditions:

East of the park entry road and south of Tibbetts tributary #0170, the existing wetland/forested community is dominated by black cottonwood, red alder, and Oregon ash in the canopy. The understory is comprised of willow, red-osier dogwood, rose, twinberry, snowberry, osoberry, and blackberries. Blackberry thickets, both Himalayan and evergreen, are dominant along the edges with reed canarygrass. The wetland was identified as Wetland 8 in Wetlands Inventory for the Lake Sammamish State Park Property (The Coot Company, 2005).

This fairly diverse community could benefit from removal of invasive plants, particularly blackberry, English ivy, and reed canarygrass. Follow up with additional plantings of the existing shrub species to combat invasive weeds and improve habitat values would improve project success. Wetland buffer plantings could be established along the west side of the wetland which is presently mowed grass. A diverse community of upland shrubs and trees, including conifers would add to the habitat value of this area.

● Project location

Wetland function	Existing score	Proposed score
Flood/Storm Water Control	9	9
Base Flow/Ground Water Support	6	6
Erosion/Shoreline Protection	NA	NA
Water Quality Improvement	12	12
Natural Biological Support	21	23
Overall Habitat Functions	5	5
Specific Habitat Functions	8	8
Cultural/Socioeconomic	10	10

Wetland and buffer functions can be characterized using the Wetland and Buffer Functions Semi-Quantitative Assessment Methodology (Cooke Scientific Services, 2002). The table above shows scores for each function in the existing condition and predicted improvement based on proposed habitat enhancements. The worksheet for this assessment is included in Appendix B.

Invasive plants and lawn in the wetland buffer

Wetland, Upland ■
(X,Y) 407660.042121, 62456.2746683 ■

Open Field Enhancement

Existing & Proposed Conditions:

A field northeast of the main (western) soccer complex is approximately seven acres in size. There is a ditch along the southwest side between the maintained soccer area and this field. This area is presently dominated by reed canarygrass, fairly large patches of slough sedge, and horsetail with scattered Oregon ash trees. Blackberry thickets are present throughout and particularly along the edges of the field. Edge habitat between the different plant types is well-distributed. This area was not specifically delineated in Wetlands Inventory for the Lake Sammamish State Park Property (The Coot Company, 2005), but was identified as part of Wetland 6.

Removal and/or control of blackberry and reed canarygrass would be beneficial to the habitat value of this area. Follow-up revegetation should include plant species chosen for their food and cover values for wildlife. The habitat values of existing tree and shrub thickets could be expanded and improved with additional species diversity. This project could be combined with Project A9 for enhanced educational and passive recreational opportunities.

● Project location

Wetland function	Existing score	Proposed score
Flood/Storm Water Control	8	9
Base Flow/Ground Water Support	7	7
Erosion/Shoreline Protection	NA	NA
Water Quality Improvement	12	12
Natural Biological Support	20	25
Overall Habitat Functions	6	7
Specific Habitat Functions	9	11
Cultural/Socioeconomic	9	11

Wetland and buffer functions can be characterized using the Wetland and Buffer Functions Semi-Quantitative Assessment Methodology (Cooke Scientific Services, 2002). The table above shows scores for each function in the existing condition and predicted improvement based on proposed habitat enhancements. The worksheet for this assessment is included in Appendix B.

Existing open field is dominated by invasives

Upland ■
(X,Y) 407830.517538, 62255.3231993 ■

Park Compost Area

Existing & Proposed Conditions:

There is an informal park compost area north of NW Sammamish Road between the two sets of soccer fields. This area could be organized into a more efficient composting operation that would provide materials to be used throughout the park and for restoration projects. Revegetation along the edges could help to define and screen the composting area, as well as prevent encroachment into the surrounding natural communities.

This operation could also serve as a "how to" interpretive area to explain composting. Various stages of decomposition could be shown resulting in potting soil quality, vermicompost (worm bins), and information about not attracting pests, such as rats and other rodents.

● Project location

The informal composting area